

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE VALLEJO YACHT CLUB

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vallejo Yacht Club as they celebrate their 121st Annual Great Vallejo Race.

The Vallejo Yacht Club, originally known as the Vallejo Yachting and Rowing Club, was founded in 1900. Twenty-five years later, The Great Vallejo Race originated as a cruise from Berkeley to Vallejo followed by another race back the following day. This race was organized by the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association, an organization created to promote and improve communication among yacht clubs, encourage boating safety, and sponsor regattas. Though starting from humble beginnings, this race is now revered as one of the largest inland regattas in the United States, drawing an attendance of nearly 200+ boats from around the Bay Area.

Now with the backing of the Yacht Racing Association, an organization formed to support competitive racing in Northern California and the leadership of the Vallejo Yacht Club, this two-day race traditionally marks the official opening of the San Francisco Bay racing season. The challenging and scenic course of this race draws hundreds of community members while showcasing the beauty of the Vallejo Waterfront to all participants and attendees.

Among the Vallejo Yacht Club's vast contributions to the community is the Learn-to-Sail program which is open to both youth and adults. This popular program invites all levels of expertise to participate in sailing and encourages aspiring sailors to engage in meaningful events with the community. Their boating safety programs along with their local memberships seek to build a club that is diverse and energetic. The Vallejo Yacht Club is both an exceptional example of what it means to be a generous and altruistic organization and a role model to many aspiring sailors and seasoned professionals.

Madam Speaker, it is no doubt that the Vallejo Yacht Club's achievements and contributions will leave a profound impact on sailors and members for generations to come. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

### HONORING SHERIFF DANIEL J. BUENO

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most influential individuals in Jim Wells County, Sheriff Daniel J. Bueno.

Sheriff Bueno has dedicated his life to protecting and serving the people of his county, and its surrounding areas. His innovation and passion for his work will leave a lasting impact on his community.

Sheriff Bueno was born on December 10, 1955 in Alice, Texas, and graduated from Ben Bolt High School in 1974. In his early career, he worked as an X-Ray Technician at the local Alice Hospital. There, he witnessed the tragedies of child abuse, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Seeing these issues drove the Sheriff to find solutions to this rising problem in the community.

Sheriff Bueno began working for the Alice Police Department in 1977 and gradually climbed the ranks, becoming the Chief of Police in 1999. Sheriff Bueno is one of the longest serving police chiefs in South Texas.

Sheriff Bueno is the son of Army Veteran Guillermo Bueno and Elva Perez Bueno. Lessons in discipline and the importance of family, instilled in him as a child, led him to become involved in the Community Action and Outreach of South Texas, where he served as President and a longstanding board member. In this role, the Sheriff prioritized speaking to South Texas families about domestic violence and child abuse prevention programs.

The Sheriff was also a part of the Los Ninos Program, a group that provides educational programs to parents from the City of Alice and across the Rio Grande Valley. Sheriff Bueno believes the home is the foundation for a child's success.

The Sheriff's mother, Elva, also influenced his career path. His mother was heavily involved with the education system in South Texas. This is where he found his passion for the betterment of local education. He served as President of the Mexican American School Board Association of Texas, and the Ben-Bolt Palito Blanco Independent School District Board of Trustees.

In 2017, Sheriff Bueno created the Loose Livestock and Theft Prevention Program. Farmers and ranchers fill out a questionnaire with information pertaining to their land and should anything happen, local law enforcement officials can notify the owner and aid in helping them resolve the issue. Since its creation, the program has grown to over 350 participants and has helped recover over a million dollars in missing property. Sheriffs from all over the state have looked to Jim Wells County as a model for implementing similar programs. Sheriff Bueno and the Loose Livestock and Theft Prevention Program have given residents in these rural areas peace of mind knowing that their law enforcement officials have the tools in place to protect them.

Sheriff Daniel J. Bueno is an inspiration for all who know him. He continues to foster justice, protect the people of Jim Wells County, and promote safety for those living in rural communities. It is clear that Sheriff Bueno is deeply invested in the people of South Texas and we cannot thank him enough for his service.

### IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE MARY ALICE BUCKNER

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant, mentor to many, trailblazer, mother, and dear friend of long-standing, Judge Mary Alice Buckner. Sadly, Judge Buckner transitioned on Friday, September 10, 2021. A celebration of her life was held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, 4400 Old Cusseta Road in Columbus, Georgia.

Mary Alice Buckner was born in Columbus, Georgia on March 3, 1948, as the fifth of nine children to the late Reverend Otis Buckner and Mrs. Beatrice Rogers Buckner. She was educated in the Muscogee County public schools, graduating with honors in 1966, from George Washington Carver High School. She decided early what career she would pursue, choosing law because she wanted her voice to be heard and to make a difference in society. Mary enrolled at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Political Science in 1970. She was accepted into Emory Law School, and after completing her first year, transferred to Mercer University, where in 1973 she received a Juris Doctorate from the Walter F. George School of Law, becoming the first African American female to graduate from Mercer Law School.

Mary Buckner accepted Christ at an early age becoming a lifelong member of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, serving over the years in the Sanctuary Choir, the Pulpit Search Committee, the Welcome Circle Mission, the Mount Pilgrim Legal Counsel Board and President of the Matrons 2. In 1975, Mary Buckner joined my law firm, Bishop and Hudlin. In 1978, the firm changed to Bishop and Buckner, P.C., and she became a full partner specializing in real estate, probate, bankruptcy, and domestic relations. We continued our practice up through 1992 when I was elected to Congress at which time, she formed her own private practice. Madam Speaker, Mary Buckner was a pioneer, paving the way for women and minorities. In February of 1984, she became the first African American woman appointed Judge Pro Tem of the Columbus Recorder's Court, and in 1991, she was appointed by the City Council to serve full time, which she did with distinction until her retirement in 2019.

Judge Buckner made significant contributions to the community through her involvement and volunteer work in organizations such as the Columbus Community Center, Past President of the Columbus Technical College Board, member and Past President of the Georgia Legal Services Board, member of the A.J. McClung YMCA Board, and a member of

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her concern for others, especially children, led her to become a foster parent. Judge Buckner's bar affiliations include memberships in the State Bar of Georgia, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association, and the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Among her numerous honors and awards are: The Tony Baldwin Trailblazer Award presented by the Black Law Students Association Alumni Council of Mercer University; The Barbara A. Harris Award for Service to the Community; and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Tau Omega Chapter 2009 Rosa Parks Women of Courage Honoree. She always advised others and especially young people that a person can achieve any goal with hard work, dedication, and commitment. She continued to make strides and create paths for diversity in the legal profession and wanted her legacy to show that she was fair yet compassionate on the bench. She knew that she had to follow the law but at the same time show empathy and concern for the wellbeing of all.

Judge Buckner accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without her enduring faith in God, the love and nurture of her parents, siblings, children, Jontell and Jackie, as well as her vast extended family, friends, and associates, all of whom will miss her deeply.

On a personal note, I have known Judge Buckner as "Mary B." since 1970, when I met her at Emory Law School. She and her family have inspired me and countless others. Not only was she my law partner, but she was my sister and trusted friend. Her friendship and support over the years have contributed mightily to my professional and political success, and I will be forever grateful that she has been a part of my life.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to the Honorable Mary Alice Buckner for her service to humankind and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all those who mourn her loss. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MRS. SHIRLEY FAYE  
EDWARDS FRENCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and service of a remarkable leader, Mrs. Shirley Faye Edwards French.

Shirley Faye Edwards was born on October 13, 1955 to the late Harold Edwards and Cora Burrell Walker. Born and raised in Marks, Mississippi, Shirley was a surprising addition to the family, coming 11 years after her mother's then youngest child.

Throughout her educational journey, Shirley made lifelong connections. Her third-grade teacher, Hattie Causey Purdy, became her

godmother, and mentored Shirley into adulthood. In 1973, Shirley graduated from Quitman County High School and matriculated to Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC). From NWCC, Shirley transferred to the University of Mississippi where she earned her Bachelor of Social Work in 1977.

On May 21, 1983, Shirley united in Holy Matrimony to Willie French, Jr. They are the proud parents of one daughter, Whitney Sade' French.

Valley Queen Missionary Baptist Church gave Shirley her spiritual foundation as well as a knack for community outreach. At Valley Queen, Shirley was active in Sunday School as the recording secretary. She served on the Board of Christian Education, which not only provided guidance and planning around Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, but also encouraged and awarded academic achievements. Shirley has been a lifelong member of Valley Queen with the exception of three years where she was a member of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She currently serves as the church's announcing clerk.

Shirley has always been known for her outgoing personality and her gift of gab. She will talk to anyone about almost anything. This would have been a perfect skillset for her original dream job, a television broadcast journalist. However, plans changed and Shirley became a social worker. Shirley has used her voice to initiate positive changes in the lives of her clients and the communities she has served over the past 44 years.

Shirley has a legacy of "firsts" throughout her career. Shirley was the first Social Worker/Community Engagement Coordinator for Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc. She helped plan and implement Jackson Police Department's Domestic Violence Case Management Program. Shirley was the first Director of the Quitman County Development Organization daycare center, and she was the first Project Director for the original Delta Futures Healthy Start Initiative, now known as Delta HealthPartners. After serving as a "first" in many organizations, Shirley spent time in program administration during her tenure at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. The program she is most known for during her time at Y.O.U. was M.A.D.A.M.E. Butterfly. While at Y.O.U., Shirley decided to further her education and earned her Master of Social Work, which she received in 2016. Currently, Shirley serves as a Social Work Case Manager for Delta HealthPartners Healthy Start Initiative under the auspices of Tougaloo College.

In addition to giving back to the community through her church and career, Shirley shares her gifts and knowledge with others on a regular basis. Shirley is well known for serving as Mistress of Ceremony (program guide) for many church programs and funerals in the community. She has worked behind the scenes to help plan community programs, birthday parties, and retirement celebrations. She offers her skills in critiquing to give valuable feedback on documents and to help clarify and expand ideas. Her networking is unmatched and she is never afraid to make connections or requests that will help those around her reach their goals.

Shirley makes sure those around her know that she is thinking about them and she cares. Shirley will stop her car and speak to those

whom she once taught in Sunday School, former program participants, and former neighbors. She is also one to strike up a conversation in the grocery store or at the gas station. In addition to asking about how the person and their family and friends are doing, she will often give a history lesson on their family or the community. More importantly, Shirley reminds people of goals they have shared with her, positive attributes she's noticed about them, and offers words of encouragement. Much like her mother, she has a phone network of friends and family members she checks in with on a regular basis and she is very adamant about recognizing and celebrating birthdays, holidays, accomplishments, and other special occasions.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Shirley Faye Edwards French for her dedication in serving her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARGYLE  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-  
BALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argyle High School Boys' Basketball Team for their commendable victory at the Division 4A state championship. The Argyle Eagles, through their laudable dedication and perseverance, qualified to compete in their UIL conference's state championship in March 2021. With their impressive performance at the final match against Huffman Hargrave High School at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, the team secured the state title for the second time in its history.

Led by Head Basketball Coach Russell Perkins and MVP Skylar McCurry, the Eagles' near perfect 29-1 game season culminated in their notable state victory. It is my pleasure to congratulate them on their stellar repeat championship.

The Argyle High School Boys' Basketball team exhibited remarkable teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie amidst the challenges brought about by a challenging year. I applaud each player, coach, and coordinator for their exemplary efforts and congratulate them for attaining their goals in the 2020-2021 basketball season. I wish every one of them continued success in their future athletic, educational and professional endeavors.

SHIRLEY ANN JOHNSON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 20, 2021*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Shirley Ann Johnson, a caring wife, mother, grandmother, greatgrandmother, godmother, sister, aunt, and friend.

Shirley graduated from Booker T. High School in Norfolk, VA, and went on to marry the love of her life, Rolland L. Johnson, Sr. They had two children, Rolland L. Johnson,